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JOINT UN/UNESCO SEMINAR ON URBANIZATION IN THE ECAFE REGION

Jointly sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in co-operation with the International Labour Office

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CONCLUSIONS[1/]

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1. Historically cities have been great carriers and initiators of cultural and economic progress, and for the future urbanization is one of the major processes which mankind has to use - and which it has to seek to guide - as industry and commerce raise levels of living for the masses of the people. The importance of the benefits and opportunities associated with urbanization was recognized by the Seminar, and the fact that most of the Seminar's attention was given to the problems, rather than to the benefits, reflected the practical consideration that it is the problems which require positive action for their solution.

/2. The Seminar

1/ The conclusions, which will form the last part of the Report of the Seminar were approved by the Seminar at its concluding meeting on 18 August 1956.

2. The Seminar noted that urbanization in most of the countries in Asia and the Far East was leading to serious problem owing to the following facts:

(a) At the present time, there is a larger urban population than is justified by present levels of agricultural and non-agricultural productivity. Much of this urban population growth has not occurred in response to economic need for large urban population concentrations, i.e., from "pull" factors represented by the employment opportunities and expectations of higher incomes from industrial, commercial and service developments; but rather from "push" factors due to the low level of rural living, and sometimes conditions of physical insecurity. On the whole, economic factors - both of push and pull - have been dominant.

(b) In most of the smaller countries there was a "primate" or great city many times, sometimes 5 to 10 times, the size of the second city, in contrast with the situation in the West which is characterized by "systems" of cities.

These cities are the product in the main of economic development oriented essentially to one or more foreign countries, rather than the result of indigenous economic development. For most Asian cities, this external orientation emerged during the colonial period which produced the great city as a link between the colony and the mother country. In some cases, the great city still preserves this character, serving as a link between the local elite and the outside world, rather than being an economic outgrowth of the indigenous national economy.

(c) The growth of many cities in Asia and the Far East including that of primate or great cities was the result of the following types of factors:

(i) The low land-population ratio arising from rapid population growth in relation to agricultural resources. People left rural areas, in brief, because there was no way, in the existing social, land tenure and technological conditions of procuring a livelihood on already over-populated land, or by technically obsolescent handicrafts.

(ii) The disruption and disorganization produced by the last war, and the political changes which followed. Many of the cities of Asia are choked with refugees who have swelled urban population out of proportion to their economic development.

(iii) The lure of urban existence to which large parts of the peasant population was exposed as the result of military service as well as migratory refugee flows.

/(iv) The actual

(iv) The actual exhaustion of natural resources in some areas which deprived some localities of their economic base.

(v) Seasonality of employment in agriculture which creates migratory flows bringing many people in contact with the attractions of city life.

(d) The primate or great city may have a paralytic effect on the development of other urban places and tend to be parasitic in relation to the remainder of the national economy. The fact that the great cities already exist creates the tendency further to centralize industrial, commercial and service developments in them. Such a tendency may detract from the growth potential of other cities and may produce further concentration in the great city at the expense of the rest of the national economy.

(e) Many cities in Asia and the Far East in contrast with Western cities, often retain strong village characteristics or those of an agglomeration of villages. In general they tend to be characterized by the co-existence of two distinctive areas: (i) the Western type area, and (ii) the indigenous type area consisting of an agglomeration of villages. In consequence, although a rather small elite indigenous population appears in Asian cities with the same characteristics as these possessed by urban residents in the West, the mass population of many Asian cities are resident in village agglomerations and tend to retain "folk" characteristics. The characteristics of the urban resident, identified with such dichotomies or continua as the "folk-urban", "rural-urban" or "community-society" categories, do not hold for the mass of residents in many Asian cities.

(f) The cities in Asia and the Far East which are now in process of rapid growth, out-distancing the rate of economic development, are faced with many social and physical problems. In this sense - in relation to their economic development - Asian countries are over-urbanized. The fundamental problem is that of low levels of living, reflecting low national productivity. The symptoms of this malady are in many urban areas inadequate housing, the almost complete absence of mass sanitary facilities, the presence of filth, squalor, repugnant odors, disease and high mortality. Moreover where national illiteracy is high the urban areas have large urban groups who have little or no access to educational facilities.

/3. The countries

3. The countries which are in the situation just described are faced with the difficult choice of allocating such of their limited resources as are available for use and susceptible of allocation towards the amelioration of such immediate problems; or on the other hand of allocating them towards investment in productive enterprises with a view to more long-run social gains. It would obviously be unsound disproportionately to use limited resources to eliminate present evils at the expense of failing to increase national productivity and thus dooming the population to continued low levels of living. On the other hand, it is difficult to resist the appeal for social investment represented by the dire needs of the mass population. Some investment of social capital may, in fact, be regarded as essential to increased productivity. For example investments in education and certain minimum standards of sanitation and housing may be pre-requisites to encouraging incentive and increasing labour productivity.

4. Most of the countries concerned are acutely aware of their present and impending urban problems and many have specific agencies organized to study and to deal with them. Planning agencies, welfare agencies, health agencies, insurance schemes, social legislation and other devices are being employed in an effort to ameliorate the more difficult problems. Some countries are seeking to decelerate the rate of urbanization or even to induce swelled urban populations to return to rural areas by (a) action to increase agricultural productivity and incomes, including facilities for rural credit and increased utilization of co-operative methods, (b) efforts to make village life more attractive, (c) the stimulation of village and cottage industries, (d) the decentralization of new industrial development, (e) improvements in communications, (f) resettlement programmes including the opening of new agricultural lands, irrigation, etc. (g) land tenure reform, and (h) general national and regional physical planning, though this is at present on a limited scale.

/5. Action on

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5. Action on these problems needs to take into account many facets of economic and social life and the Seminar therefore felt it desirable to set out a number of the main issues and possible approaches as follows:

(a) Economic Aspects

6. Effects of urbanization favourable to economic progress in general are the occupational diversification, the greater opportunity of occupational and social mobility and readiness to adapt, and the dynamic influence of the technical progress which cities reflect through their contacts with other centres of economic progress.

7. Urbanization also by its very nature (i.e. the close physical association of widely needed factors of production) brings about "external economies" which increase productive efficiency, as well as internal economies of scale made possible by broader and more easily reached markets.

8. Money incomes are generally higher in urban than in rural areas. On the other hand, the participants were divided or uncertain as to whether real incomes are likewise higher in urban areas. Costs of many cost-of-living items tend to be higher in cities. Tertiary employment predominates over secondary (industrial) employment in most Asian cities, but much of the tertiary employment is of a marginal kind, including domestic service and a variety of low-productive or "fringe" activities. Further, urban consumption patterns differ from rural consumption patterns, and are frequently considered socially "maladjusted".

9. Urbanization imposes a heavy requirement for capital formation for public utilities and housing, an especially difficult burden when urbanization is outpacing economic development and productivity. In the short run this, along with the more acutely felt need for educational, health and other basic social overheads, is one of the major difficulties which urbanization creates. In the long run, however, as modern ideas permeate society as a whole, and as needs in the rural areas are more

/articulate and

articulate and are to a greater extent taken into account in the economic development process, the distinction between urban and rural areas with respect to such costs may be reduced. It might be desirable for studies to be undertaken on different aspects of the comparative cost per head of such basic services in cities and in small towns and villages.

10. Because of over-crowding and inability to provide essential facilities and services, many cities of Asia are at the point of developing serious dis-economies in production (transport and power shortages, etc.), as well as of overstraining their function of relieving rural under-employment and setting the pace for national development.

11. From the economic as well other points of view, urban centres must be viewed as closely linked with rural areas in a single inter-dependent whole. Each requires the other and each affects the other. Accordingly, the economic advances achieved through industrialization and through urbanization not only depend on manpower, food and other resources obtained from rural areas but also, in a properly planned and balanced programme of economic development, can help to bring about a greater degree of advancement and specialization, with generally higher productivity, in the countryside. The process of economic development itself is the fundamental premise. Urban misery and rural poverty are two sides of the same coin - economic under-development - and without economic development, changes in the distribution of population as between urban and rural areas cannot in themselves satisfactorily solve the human problems involved.

12. In the years before the second world war, the influence of governments on types, scale and location of industries was in theory, if not always in practice, largely indirect rather than direct in most countries; free market competition was generally considered to be beneficial, helping to produce a more efficient allocation of resources and a more healthy production alignment. In Asia the resulting industrial development has, however, been somewhat unbalanced in relation to the

/resources endowment

resources endowment of some countries, industries being frequently modeled on the western pattern using labour-saving machinery and making difficult a fuller utilization of the abundantly available manpower. Moreover, industry has located wherever it has been profitable even though conflicts with interests of social welfare have sometimes developed.

13. The high priority accorded in current development plans in the ECAFE countries to investments in basic overheads puts a heavy premium on arriving at wise decisions because in the long run policies that determine the type, scale and location of these economic overheads will be largely responsible for the patterns of industrial development and the process of urbanization.

14. The weight of employment considerations in the region and the desire to bring about a distribution of industry that will utilize natural and human resources most effectively, is an element strengthening the move to achieve a more decentralized industrial development. However, a wide range of both economic and non-economic considerations must be carefully gone into in deciding whether new industrial townships should be developed or the existing centres expanded, or a new pattern of rural dispersal encouraged.

15. The creation of employment opportunities without retarding technological progress poses a problem which is recognized as of major importance but which has not been solved. Emphasis on labour-intensive techniques is frequently necessary but it is also desirable to avoid, if possible, carrying such emphasis to the point where it adversely affects the growth of society's net aggregate product, either directly or by way of its cumulative long-term influence.

16. Decentralized industrial development in Asian countries is likely to succeed only if considerable guidance is provided to small industries. Help is called for all the line. For exemple, organizations may be developed to bring widely dispersed industrial units together into voluntary trade associations for procurement of raw materials, marketing and research; the usefulness of co-operatives can be further explored; standardization and quality control can be introduced.

/17. Along with

17. Along with physical planning as a tool of location policy, the influence of other development policies such as tax policy, public expenditure policy, foreign trade policy, wage policy etc. on the locational pattern of industry should be borne in mind. City and regional planning need to be kept in proper relation to the policies and instruments of overall national planning.

(b) Social Aspects

18. Urbanization in addition to reflecting technological change and a new form of economic organization produces a new way of life. Cultural uniformity and traditional patterns of belief and behaviour tend to be broken, and social change is accelerated. This is usually accompanied by social disorganization as the first stage in social reorganization, i.e. the emergence of new forms of thought and behaviour. Various forms of social and personal disorganization result but, on the other hand, great advances in science, intellectuality, and in art forms also follow, some of which represent man's greatest achievements in civilization.

19. Social disorganization in urban area is particularly noticeable in changes in family organization, which in ECAFE countries tends to take the form of changes from the large or joint-family system to the small family system; in changes in religious practices and beliefs; in changes in social stratification, including caste and class lines. In response to these changes, new institutions evolved representing formal social controls, which may be viewed as substitutes for the informal social controls of the integrated society. Among the new formal controls which emerge are institutional means of controlling behaviour - the police, courts and penitentiaries; welfare and health agencies, social legislation and social security provisions to substitute for the protective functions of the family; and many other institutions to meet needs previously met by integrated family and community life. Many of these changes however have not as yet gone very far in those Asian cities where a large proportion of the indigenous population is resident in an agglomeration of what are in effect villages within the urban framework. To the extent that these populations remain isolated from urban contacts they tend to retain their "folk society" characteristics.

/20. Personal

20. Personal disorganization, which is the subjective aspect of social disorganization, is manifest in such condition as juvenile delinquency, crime and vice. Moreover, since Asian nations tend to be overurbanized, these evidences of personal disorganization are in most of the Asian cities to be found in a matrix of mass poverty and low levels of living productive of high morbidity and mortality.

21. Since the family is generally the basic social unit through which socialization of the individual must be accomplished and modes of though and behaviour shaped, special attention is needed in respect of changes in the family and the problems associated with such changes, including living conditions. It was recognized that many of the functions of the family have disappeared or been modified in urban areas, and that inter-personal relations of the family have been greatly modified. In consequence, it is necessary to safeguard the interest of urban populations so that adequate protective, educational, and recreational needs and other needs previously provided by the family are available through new urban institutions, such as health and welfare agencies, schools, social security provisions including provision for the aged, public unemployment compensations, public recreation centres and the like.

22. As one aspect of the impact of urbanization or the family, the role of women tends drastically to be changed. In the urban setting largely as a result of various factors affecting traditional family organization, the woman tends to achieve an egalitarian status, and her more secluded traditional role as wife and mother, in some countries, gives way to broader participation in the economic, social and political activities of the nation.

23. Juvenile delinquency and crime and such group manifestations as mass riots are frequently by-products of rapid urbanization. There is, however, little evidence that the concentration of population itself in urban centres or that industrialization which generally characterizes urban development are, per se, directly responsible for increased delinquency or criminality. Rather, it is social change and attendant social and personal disorganization which provides the setting for deviate forms of behaviour which are defined as delinquent or criminal in the urban setting.

/24. Continued

24. Continued urbanization in Asian countries, if unbalanced and unplanned, may be expected to be accompanied by increased delinquency and criminality; on the other hand, controlled urbanization holds promise for keeping social disorganization, including delinquency and crime in check.

25. A general device for promoting development in the urban area may be found in the "community development" programme. This programme essentially involves (a) the participation by the people themselves in efforts to improve their level of living with as much reliance as possible on their own initiative, and (b) by the provision of technical and other services in ways which encourage initiative, self-help and mutual help to make these more effective. Some governments in this region are experimenting with application of community development methods to urban areas and perhaps more can be done by greater emphasis on establishing neighbourhood units and centres in urban areas and by creating coherent small suburbs within the city proper with all the necessary services. Cultural programmes may prove to be an important factor to establish a new social cohesion. Information on the existing pilot projects in community development carried on in urban areas in Asia should be disseminated and further experiments encouraged.

26. In such a process education must as always play an important role, and steps should be taken to see that the provision of educational facilities keeps up with the pace of urbanization. For this purpose studies should be made of the relation between the foreshadowed growth of population in the urban centres over the next ten years and the growth of educational facilities, primary, secondary and vocational, and the available demographic data should be reviewed and improved for the purpose. At the same time education authorities should survey their facilities and see what deficiencies need to be met in their existing services. Evaluation of the results achieved should be made at regular intervals and necessary changes made to achieve the best results.

/27. Provision should

27. Provison should be made in the above facilities and curricula to deal with the special problems both of adults and children of recent rural origin, including problems of language where the urban language is different from the rural dialect, and the need for instruction as to facilities provided by urban life, and its advantages and dangers.

28. Further, along with such programmes and action to improve economic and physical conditions, urban populations with the poorest conditions of living can be assisted by educational programmes basic to the employment possibilities available locally in industry or services. This might deal inter alia with the problems of new entrants into industry in adapting themselves to fixed working hours and factory life, and to changes in diet and distribution of family budget required by industrial life.

29. In this connexion UNESCO should consider modifying and adapting its programme of work on Fundamental Education so that in addition to working in rural areas it should also deal with persons living in cities who face comparable problems.

30. It was pointed out that workers abruptly transplanted from rural to urban areas, particularly from a more or less primitive subsistence economy to a technologically more advanced exchange economy, tend to lack stability, have difficulty in adapting themselves to urban conditions, and lack training for or experience of industrial work, so that their productivity is very low.

31. Various measures may contribute towards a solution of these problems. Short-term measures include diffusing in rural areas accurate information concerning living and working conditions and employment prospects in the towns, and facilities for accelerated vocational training for workers who come to the towns. Longer-term measures include (i) expansion of the rural and urban school systems and a reorientation of school curricula, with greater emphasis on practical vocational or pre-vocational training, so as to equip children better for the conditions of urban labour markets; (ii) the development of vocational training facilities in urban centres; (iii) extendion of the activities of employment services; and (iv) regulation of conditions of employment through social legislation and the improvement of working conditions.

/32. If urbanization

32. If urbanization is not to create new wants more rapidly than industrialization creates the means for satisfying them, urbanization must be accompanied by a rapid growth in industrial productivity and employment through cottage, small and medium and large-scale industries. Measures of manpower policy need to be devised and applied as integral parts of more general policies aiming at economic development and higher levels of productivity and employment. In particular (1) there is considerable scope for improved utilization of resources in existing and newly developed industries in under-developed countries through the application of modern methods of management and improved working conditions. (2) Improved productivity can be made to contribute to capital formation and to the expansion of employment opportunities. (3) Since higher productivity has a direct impact on and depends on the support of both labour and management, productivity programmes should seek to secure their interest and support a common basis for mutually advantageous action. (4) Productivity programmes should be instrumental in providing a broad range of educational and consulting services. (5) Joint "Productivity Centres", with government support, can usefully serve as focal points for the organization and execution of productivity programmes.

33. A major element in over-rapid urbanization is the great increase in the rate of population growth. The rate of population growth may be expected to increase as mortality continues to decrease throughout the ECAFE area. Rapid population increase in countries in which the resource-population ratio is already very low tends to increase the importance of the "push" factor in the migration of population from rural to urban areas. There is need for study problems related to over-rapid population growth and of policy and means of controlling such growth.

34. Although policy can influence the trend to urbanization only to a certain extent, governments are able to exercise considerable influence in the location of industries and of administrative services, by providing facilities for transport, by building programmes, permits for establishment of retail trade and various inducements.

/35. There is no

35. There is no general "balance" between the proportion of rural and urban development, as it will be different according to the various social-economic structures. The important differences between countries reflect their difference in specialization and their conception of needs which are accepted as "normal".

36. The difference between village and urban outlook is particularly important in Asia and it is desirable to decrease this discrepancy. Possible alternatives to over-rapid urbanization are:

(a) By means of diversification and intensification, agricultural production can be greatly increased and present conditions of unemployment of many rural areas in the region improved. This will help to put a check or the excessive flow of rural people into urban districts.

(b) Decentralization of industries with emphasis on small-scale industries which can be established in villages and small towns. Besides the advantages of strengthening the smaller rural units, this will teach villagers some basic features of machine handling and so bring about a better understanding of the role of the machine in the society. This again will diminish the difference between city and village culture.

37. In urban areas changes occur in the traditional arts and crafts and forms of cultural enjoyment. In respect of these changes a number generalization were drawn. Machine-made modern articles will probably replace hand-made goods in Asian countries unless they are really useful and artistic, and steps should be taken to develop the best work in the traditional crafts. Although traditional forms of arts and crafts can be assisted by government information and encouragement, they will only survive if they derive their strength from popular approval, and their utilitarian as well as their artistic aspects must not be overlooked.

38. It was noted that during much of the modern era eastern cultures tended to come into contact with western cultures more than with one another. At present, however, culture contacts between Asian cultures are increasing. The results of these contacts will depend on the relative strength of each culture. A period of acculturation may bring about confusion of values,

/but traditional music,

but traditional music, drama and dancing seem to be in a particularly strong position in most countries, and some forms of indigenous contributions to science, particularly in the field of medicine, are very valuable.

39. The strongest city influence in the field of recreation is the cinema, although its cultural value is frequently a matter of differences of judgment. Its social implications need study because of the strength of its influence on persons undergoing social and cultural change. There is a great need for public libraries and the production of suitable literature in cities to accompany literacy programmes and promoted civic responsibility. Further, museums, art galleries and the like do serve, in a number of cases, as major means of creating community consciousness, spreading incentive to knowledge, aiding literacy, and stimulating innovation in cultural and economic activities.

40. Since there is a tendency to emphasize the problem aspects of urban development particularly as manifest in social and personal disorganization and in the breakdown of revered tradition, it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the urban environment also produces social changes generally agreed upon as highly desirable and of the highest value, not only through raising the level of living but, also, through stimulating intellectual and artistic pursuits. It is in the city that diverse cultures and traditions meet and that the innovator appears. It is not an accident that it is in the city that the great intellectual and artistic achievements identified with civilization have originated, including the development of science, literature, music and arts. It is in the city that man has achieved his highest levels of living and greatest intellectual and artistic triumphs.

(c) Physical and Regional Planning

41. As the gap between urban and rural living in physical terms, namely with respect to housing, community environment, social and cultural services and facilities, continues to widen, the pace of urbanization may be expected to become more rapid in the ECAFE countries as a result of conscious efforts directed at industrialization, the introduction of modern technology, and the utilization of new sources of power including nuclear energy.

/42. The problem

42. The problem aspects of the urban environment and the problem of housing in Asia are perhaps worse than in any other part of the world. Its consequences and symptoms are not only social maladjustments but also drastic physical changes evident in slums and environmental blight.

43. Governments are assuming increasing responsibility for the planning and execution of housing and community improvement programmes as part of their general social and economic policy. As social overhead projects these programmes are being more generally accepted as essential to economic development and that as in the case of transport, power and health and education their benefits are derived from the more balanced development of economic activities which utilize them.

44. Housing is deeply involved in the process of saving and investment. It is a type of capital formation that both encourages and strengthens long-term patterns of saving. A concerted effort is needed to mobilize all available resources including the direct contribution of future householders through self-help and co-operative methods and private initiative, particularly in connexion with housing programmes for the lower and middle-income groups. Such programmes may be encouraged by providing facilities for low-interest loans - especially important in ECAFE countries when interest rates are high. To this end it is necessary to establish special agencies and institutions whose purpose it is to channel and attract into the housing field, in addition to public finance, also individual, co-operative and institutional savings and funds, as well as the contribution of industrial enterprises.

45. The production and use of local materials, both through cottage industries and on a larger scale, may largely contribute to the reduction of the cost of housing. A further contribution can be made by mobilizing through self-help and mutual help the future house-holders' labour and skills for the building and improvement of their own houses and communities. In and around large urban agglomerations, however, large-scale and highly productive building and building materials industry is called for.

/46. Housing standards

46. Housing standards cannot be separated from the corresponding standards of community planning, and essential services and facilities, including, in urban areas, sanitation and water and transport between the workers' house and the place of work. When resources are scarce, greater emphasis should be laid on adequate community and regional planning and the provision of utilities, sanitation and water services and other facilities, rather than on a limited number of good houses in an insufficient environment.

47. Better housing adapted to local needs, improved living conditions and adequate amenities and community facilities in rural areas, in particular, may help to slow down the drift towards the city. At the same time it will encourage the location of small-scale and larger industries within clusters of existing villages and may bring to the rural population a new and additional source of livelihood.

48. It is the task of physical or environmental planning to define the different components of a specific development programme in physical terms, by assessing and recommending within a given area, zones for industrial, agricultural, residential, social and cultural uses and by establishing a rational pattern for transport and communications, for power supply and distribution, and for other utility networks or part of the overall programme.

49. Environmental or physical planning provides an opportunity to reconcile the often divergent interest of material production in its narrow sense with human welfare, and to help establish a balance in the urban/rural relationship of a developing area. The more rapid the urbanization process becomes, the more necessary it is to plan for it, so that costly mistakes of the past can be avoided.

50. Physical planning is part of a many-sided process of economic and social development. Social and political conditions are projecting throughout the planning and development cycle a general and often changing framework within which action is conceived, accepted and executed. It is therefore important to stimulate popular participation in the different types of planning and excution of development programmes in general and physical planning in particular.

/51. Physical

51. Physical planning like all planning is a continuing process and it can be effectively practised only by an organization including the required expert knowledge and the necessary legislative and financial authority. Its work is of a long-term character and the concept of comprehensive planning requires team work as a vehicle. It is therefore essential to establish the required planning organization, train the necessary personnel and set out the methods and procedures in addition to producing plans. At the same time a close relationship between the physical planning organ and the economic and social units of government is a primary conditions for success.

52. Each community is related to others as regards economic, physical and social factors. Development in one place calls for co-ordination of local projects with regional and national programmes. The region, in fact, is the link between the individual community and the nation. A regional plan offers an easier identification of national goals in terms of local action.

53. Regional planning has in the past been primarily confined to the redevelopment of metropolitan areas or to river valley developments where hydro-electric energy served as a source of power. The possibility of providing nuclear energy in a wide range of geographic locations may expand also the opportunity for careful regional planning of the use of resources that have not been tapped before for lack of power. The process of urbanization and the urban/rural relationship might be tempered and channelled through integrated economic, social and physical development of the natural, social and human resources of a region. Comprehensive environmental planning is therefore equally important in connection with the redevelopment of metropolitan areas, the opening up of new resources, and the reconstruction of rural regions.

54. The Seminar noted with satisfaction that an Asian conference on regional (physical) planning is to be held in 1957 or 1958 and that it will examine: (a) the trends and methods of physical planning and its place in the total process of economic and social development, (b) the criteria and factors determining the character and extent of a region for planning purposes; and (c) case studies on current positions, practices and results of physical

/planning at the

planning at the local, regional and national levels. It was felt that the physical and social factors influencing community cohesion and creation of desirable neighbourhoods require attention and study. It was, finally, agreed that integrated research (economic, social, technological, cultural, etc.) of the process of planning, construction and further growth of communities such as the new towns being built throughout Asia, and in connection with valley development projects in that part of the world yield important experience and data on the essential factors influencing balanced community and regional growth of interest to those concerned with operational policy for planning and development.

55. There is a fundamental difference between the socio-economic settings of the 19th century industrial revolution in Europe and the present conscious effort at industrial and agricultural development in Asia. The present technology offers a wider range of possibilities for the distribution of population and for the community and regional structure in the physical and social sense. At the same time the increasing role of public authorities and public responsibility in matters of housing and physical environment in particular are generally accepted functions of government in Asia. The Asian countries are evolving new approaches of their own more suited to their circumstances and needs. Their experience may prove to be of interest and value to other countries as well.

C.

Next Steps

56. The Seminar felt confident that, with increased industrialization and economic development, it would be possible to find solutions which would mitigate the problems of urbanization, and bring the fruits of modern technical and administrative progress to an ever-increasing number of people in Asia and the Far East.

57. In discussing future action it was of the opinion that the scope and urgency of the problems of rapid urban growth required both continued study and research by national governments and international agencies, and practical action to deal with the economic cultural and social conditions which urbanization brings.

/58. The Seminar felt

58. The Seminar felt that there is a need in Asia and the Far East area for continuing activity in the field of urbanization and for liaison arrangements among those engaged in study and operational work. It was further of the opinion that efforts should be made to co-ordinate research and the exchange of information on its results.

59. The Seminar considered that due to the many-sided character of the industrialization and urbanization processes, activities contributing to their sound growth (such as economic planning, education, health, housing, and action in the field of productivity and labour problems, community organization and development, social science research and studies) should be increasingly promoted on a concerted basis.

60. It was also felt that arrangements should be made by the United Nations and specialized agencies for the exchange of experiences on various policy aspects of urbanization, including such problems as the financing of activities and projects conducive to balanced urbanization and surveys as may be necessary of the overall experience of the different countries in this field.

61. Finally, it was thought that there should be increasing co-ordination of various activities in the field of urbanization, such as conferences on this subject itself on specific aspects and phases of urbanization and on related problems (for example, the proposed Asian conference on regional planning in relation to urbanization and industrialization, the periodic meetings of the ECAFE Working Party on Housing and Building Materials and other ECAFE bodies dealing with economic development and industrialization, and meetings called by the UNESCO Research Centre on Social Implications of Industrialization in Southern Asia).

62. Further in order to facilitate study and action in the field of urbanization the Seminar felt that there was a need to develop considerable demographic data on internal migration.

/63. Members of

63. Members of the Seminar expressed great interest in some continuing activities which may be considered as a follow-up of this first Seminar. Representatives of UN and UNESCO Secretariats drew attention to the great importance attached by the Economic and Social Council to the related problems of industrialization and urbanization in the economically under-developed areas. A similar jointly sponsored seminar is to be held in Latin America in 1958 and case studies will be initiated in that region.

64. It was noted with approval that in the forthcoming United Nations Second Report on the World Social Situation due emphasis will be placed on the urbanization problems in under-developed areas.

65. The Seminar also learned that the UNESCO Research Centre on Social Implications of Industrialization in Southern Asia (Calcutta, India) would provide through its Advisory Committee (of 13 member nations and interested specialized agencies and its liaison committees a clearing house for information and co-ordinating function with respect to research on social aspects of urbanization as well as undertake certain research itself.

66. It was also pointed out, that within the existing United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme opportunities are offered to member governments for training abroad of officials dealing with urbanization problems, for experts to assist governments in formulating policies, organizing research centres, etc. while UNESCO's programme in the Social for Aid to Member States could also assist.

67. Hope was expressed that an international financial agency, such as the proposed Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development would be able to provide on a long-term basis loans to Asian countries for ameliorating serious social, physical and economic conditions arising from urbanization.